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E. De la Garza

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 December 1974

FROM: Kika de la Garza, M C

Washington, D C--Rep Kika de la Garza said Tuesday in the House of Representatives that the work of county offices of the Agricultural Stabilization Service in South Texas and throughout the nation is threatened by severe personnel cuts directed by the Department of Agriculture.

"The present prospect," he said, "is that between 1,600 and 3,000 county ASCS trained personnel will be discharged, although the workload of these offices has not decreased."

He cited as an example the situation in Willacy County, pointing out that in 1968 this ASCS office had eight regular full time employees and two temporary employees and now has only five regular and no temporary employees. Orders have come from Washington, he added, that the number be decreased to three full time employees and one part time employee.

Congressman de la Garza quoted a petition he received, signed by 119 Willacy County farmers, urging that the erosion in the county office be halted.

"I fully agree with the statements in the petition," he told his colleagues. "The work done by the county ASCS offices is of vital importance--never more so than now, when U S farmers are being called upon to make even greater efforts to provide sufficient food for our own people and to help feed the starving millions of the world."

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